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SOVIET AIR FORCE

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Beginning with the 1928 five-year plan, heavy industry in Russia made tremendous progress. The air force was expanded along with this industrial development. The following table gives the increase in the number of aircraft from 1929 to 1941:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Aircraft</u>
1929	620
1930	730
1931	1,600
1932	2,300
1933	2,700
1934	3,000
1935	4,000
1936	5,000
1937	7,000
1938	8,000
1939	8,500
1940	9,500
1941 (to beginning of war)	12,000

The Air Force Headquarters, a part of the People's Commissariat for National Defense, controls the air units of the entire country. Air headquarters are established in all of the military districts which have jurisdiction over air units within each military district. An air command consists of several wings, an air materiel depot, a maintenance depot and air sector headquarters. A wing consists of a number of groups, anfield maintenance depot, a field air materiel depot, and an airfield security battalion. A group has three squadrons and a number of service units. A squadron has three flights and the necessary

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service units. A flight has from two to six sections and a number of ground service personnel; a section usually has two aircraft with two to six ground service personnel per aircraft.

An ordinary air group has six sections with two aircraft per section. Each flight consists of two sections, and each squadron has three flights. This makes a total of 12 aircraft per squadron plus one aircraft for the squadron commander and two reserve bringing the total to 15. A group has three squadrons, so that the total number of aircraft for a group including group commander's aircraft and four reserve is 50.

A heavy bomber group has four sections of three aircraft each and two flights of two sections each. Each flight has, in addition to the six aircraft of the two sections, a flight commander's and two reserve aircraft. The number of aircraft in a squadron is 21, including one squadron commander's and two reserve aircraft. The total for the group is 45; this includes the group commander's and two reserve aircraft.

A pursuit air wing has four groups each of 50 aircraft. This makes a total of 200 aircraft in addition to one wing commander's and ten reserve aircraft.

A mixed air /command/ when organized of two pursuit groups, two attack groups, and one bomber group would have the following number of aircraft: 100 pursuit planes, 100 attack planes, 45 bombers, three wing commanders' planes, and 25 reserve aircraft. / Presumably the ratio of reserve aircraft would be 10 attack, 10 pursuit, and 5 bombers./

A bomber wing consisting of three groups each with 45 bombers would have a total of 135 bombers in addition to one wing commander's plane and 10 reserve aircraft.

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An airfield battalion usually services several groups. An air sector headquarters has several airfield battalions under its command, and in addition, it has several service units with which it services several wings.

An airfield battalion performs the following duties: a) security, b) movement of group equipment, c) rations and supply, d) fuel supply, e) maintenance of airfield, and f) telecommunications.

The following tables give characteristics and performance of Soviet aircraft:

Fight Planes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Maximum Speed (km)</u> <u>Cruising Speed</u>	<u>Climb (km)</u> <u>(max)</u>	<u>Armament</u>	<u>Arm</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
UU 223	Water-cooled	500 - 5300 (sic) 300				
RA 22-3	1x1050 hp	5500 (sic) - 600 300	10,000	1x20mm 3x13mm	150	Radius 300 km; obsolete
JK - 11	1x2500 air-cooled	250 (estimated) (sic) 450 - 480	12,000	2x20mm 2x13mm	200 250	Radius 5-65 km (sic) High altitude night fighter
JK - 11 (sic)		over 800 450 - 480	12,000 14,000	4x20mm		Equipped with latest Lockheed engine at end of war.

Attack Planes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Maximum Speed (km)</u> <u>Cruising Speed</u>	<u>Climb (km)</u> <u>(max)</u>	<u>Armament</u>	<u>Arm</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
OR - 3	1x1050 hp water-cooled	370 250	3,000	1x20mm 2x13mm 2x2 (sic)	200	10mm shields protect engine and pilot. Good low-altitude performance.
UR-2	1x1850hp Water-cooled	430 - 450 300		1x37mm 2x20mm 2x13mm 1x7mm	500	Single converted to double seater. Radius - 500km
UR-10	1x2500 hp Water-cooled	580 - 620 350		1x47mm 1x20mm 2x13mm	500	Strong anti-tank fire power. Radius-500 km.

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Attack Bombers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Maximum Speed (km)</u> <u>Cruising Speed</u>	<u>Climb (km)</u> <u>(MAY)</u>	<u>Armament</u>	<u>Alt</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
NE-2	2x2,000hp Water-cooled	550 - 600 350 - 700 (sic)	10,000	1x37mm 2x20mm 1x13mm	750	Type 72 improved. Radius - 500 to 700 km. 3 crew.
NY - 2	2x2,000 hp water-cooled	500 - 600 350 - 370	10,000	1x37mm 2x30mm 1x13mm	1,000	Slightly larger than the NE-2. Radius - 700 to 800 km. Crew - 4 or 5.
A P - 2	2x2,000 hp water-cooled	500 - 600 350 - 370	10,000	1x37mm 2x30mm 1x13mm	800 to 1,000	Radius - 700 to 800 km. Similar to TY. Crew - 4 or 5.

Bombers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Engine</u>	<u>Maximum Speed (km)</u> <u>Cruising Speed</u>	<u>Climb (km)</u> <u>(MAY)</u>	<u>Armament</u>	<u>Alt</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
MD - 7	4x1,000 hp Air-cooled.	400 - 500 270 - 300	12,000	4x20mm 4x13mm	3,000 4,000	Also called NE-8. Radius - 2,000 km.

The Eastern Soviet first line air strength estimated as of Aug 45 was between 8,000 to 9,000 planes. They are divided into the following categories:

Fighter Planes - 40% , 3,200 to 3,600 planes.

Attack Planes - 30%, 2,400 to 2,700 planes.

Attack Bombers - 20%, 1,600 to 1,800 planes.

Bombers - 10%, 800 to 900 planes.

The distribution of air strength at the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war was as follows:

Maritime provinces south of Khabarovsk - Three air commands.

Khabarovsk and vicinity - One air command.

Blagoveschensk Front - One air command.

Trans-Baykal Front - One air command.

These air commands have established semi-permanent airfield and telecommunications networks. By the summer of 1944 a system of airfields covering the Soviet Far East border was completed. Emphasis was placed during the latter half of 1944 ^{on} to establish ^{ing} bases in the rear areas. Heavy bomber units are stationed at T'ao-pin-ho^o [Taukhu 1], Komsomol'sk, and Mou-meng^o. The facilities at these fields are excellent, and there are many revetments. Dummy air defense positions are located in various places.

The 12th Air Command under the Trans-Baykal Sector has gone into the Northeast (Manchuria). The commanding general of this air command is Marshal Ma^{chia}-ha-ko-fu^o. The Ninth Air Command (commanded by a general) has been stationed in the North Korea and Kwantung areas. After the war, the Soviet Air Force stationed units in the Kuriles, Sakhalin, North Korea, Kwantung, and Inner Mongolia with Ch'ang-ch'un as the central point.

The Soviet Air Force situation as of Feb 45 is as follows:

Shinnuiju - Ninth Air Command; a group commander with a number of JK type planes also stationed here.

Pyeongyang - Group commander (colonel) stationed here with 100 UR attack planes and 50 NE-2 and MY-2 attack bombers.

Kwantung - One bomber wing with NE-2 and MY-2 type bombers, and one pursuit wing with JK type planes.

Chou-shui-tsu - One attack bomber wing.

Inner and Outer Mongolia - According to a source who has been in Mongolia in 1945, medium - sized airfields at Wang-yeh-miao, Wang-i-kou, and Ta-mu-su-ko have been enlarged and pursuit planes stationed at these fields.

Sakhalin - The defense wing for Moskva has been transferred to this island. Its squadrons have 12 QK-type planes. Other wing(s) at Sakhalin have NE-2 type planes. These units are alerted at all times.

Kuriles - Crack pursuit wing(s) stationed here.